

# Abstract

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The Government of Meghalaya through the Department of Community and Rural Development has in the Financial year 2014-15, proposed a major Convergence plan with various departments such as PHE, Sericulture, Social Welfare, Forest, Soil and water Conservation, Fisheries, PMGSY, Water Resources, BRGF and Flagship Programmes of the Government of India. The objective of taking up such convergence works is to bring about sustainable livelihood to the rural households and creation of durable assets. Through the various convergence activities, any areas, gaps which cannot be covered under MGNREGS are filled in by the Line Departments in the form of Technical support and material inputs.

The proposal under this Convergence Plan covering nine Departments involves Rs. 5656.579 lakh as the MGNREGA components with a target of 37.04743 lakh persondays. The total cost of the convergence programme including contributions from the Line Departments and the beneficiaries is Rs. 18405.31 lakhs.

Chief Secretary  
Government of Meghalaya

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Meghalaya

## **Roadmap on Convergence between MGNREGA and other Line Departments for the year 2014-15: Meghalaya.**

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### **1. BACKGROUND NOTE ON CONVERGENCE:**

- 1.1 The Ministry of Rural Development has in its various instructions emphasized on the importance of convergence between MGNREGA with other Schemes for better achievement of its aims and objectives in creation of durable assets and securing livelihood of rural households. To maximise the outcomes and to effectively address these issues, there is a need to utilize the resources from various departments. This is made possible through inter- departmental convergence.
- 1.2 In compliance of the instructions of the Ministry of Rural Development, the State Government had organized a State level workshop on the 4<sup>th</sup> March 2014 held at Shillong. The workshop created a platform for various departments for interaction and consultation. Following the event, the departments / districts were advised to submit a convergence plan taking into consideration the needs of the district and the feasibility for convergence. The State Institute of Rural Development (SIRD) had also developed the Guidelines on Convergence for Meghalaya based on the Guidelines of the various Departments and Schemes. Following a series of District level meeting, workshops with the beneficiaries and the Line Departments. The Rural Development Department of Meghalaya has chosen the following sectors for Convergence for the Financial year 2014-15 viz., Plantation and maintenance of *Eri* and *Muga* food plants under Sericulture Department, Community Fishery projects under Fisheries Department, afforestation, Construction of dug out ponds under Soil and Water Conservation, construction of minor irrigation under Forest Department, Construction of Anganwadi Centres in convergence with ICDS and other activities with Water Resource, PWD (R). The proposals are in addition to the existing convergence efforts between NBA and IAY, MGNREGS and BRGF, and the Black Topping of Rural Road Scheme (BTRRS).

### **2. APPROVED LABOUR BUDGET:**

For the Financial Year 2014-15, the Ministry of Rural Development has indicated a target of 172.95 lakh persondays for the State. The table below depicts the number of households to be covered, persondays to be generated and the expenditure (District wise).

<i>District</i>	<i>Projected employment demand for next year</i>	<i>Projected Persondays to be Generated for next year</i>	<i>Projected wage expenditure in the next FY (in lakhs)</i>	<i>Projected material expenditure in the next FY (In lakhs)</i>
South Garo Hills	21000	609000	931.77	586.48
West Garo Hills	89337	4466850	6834.2805	4362.57129
East Khasi Hills	78149	3751152	5739.26256	3779.20172

Jaintia Hills	40200	1025100	1568.403	997.96
Ri Bhoi	48130	1371705	2098.70865	1407.94
East Garo Hills	29880	1523880	2331.5364	1540.36313
West Khasi Hills	48921	1283687	1964.0412	1303.25
East Jaintia Hills	13320	279720	427.9716	287.992
South West Garo Hills	30110	1234510	1888.8003	1215.8898
North Garo Hills	26591	1276368	1952.84304	1263.25898
South West Khasi Hills	18920	473028	723.69	457.17
<b>Total</b>	<b>444558</b>	<b>17295000</b>	<b>26461.30725</b>	<b>17202.07692</b>

### 3. NODAL OFFICER:

The Community and Rural Development Department, Meghalaya has notified the Director Community and Rural Development Department as the Nodal Officer for grounding and implementing the Convergence plan.

### 4. COMMITTEES:

**4.1 DISTRICT LEVEL CONVERGENCE COMMITTEE:** The District Programme Coordinator (DPC) shall constitute the District Level Convergence Committee (DLCC) with representatives from Line Departments. The DLCC shall be responsible for collection and compilation of basic information relating to various sectors and identify the critical gaps and prepare a District Plan for convergence, covering all the sectors and interventions and consolidate actions plan by engaging empanelled Technical Support Institution (TSI) whenever available. Upon approval, the document shall be forwarded to the State Nodal Department for inclusion in the State Document.

**4.2 BLOCK LEVEL CONVERGENCE COMMITTEE:** The Project Director (DRDA) shall be the Chairman of the Block Level Convergence Committee (BLCC) comprising of representatives from various Line Departments and the Block Development Officer shall be the Member Secretary. The BLCC shall be responsible for the collection and compilation of basic information relating to various sectors and identify the critical gaps covering all the sectors and interventions and consolidate workable plans.

**4.3 VILLAGE EMPLOYMENT COUNCIL:** The Village Employment Council (VEC) being the principal authority for planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of MGNREGA projects shall oversee all convergence projects at the village level. The VEC may constitute a Village Level Convergence Committee (VLCC) that includes Chairmen of different committees such as Watershed Associations, Watershed Committees, Water and Sanitation Committees, etc, to be chaired by the VEC Chairman and shall ensure proper implementation of convergence projects at the village level. The VEC shall identify critical gaps and works to be taken up at the Village level and forward the same to the Programme Officer for consolidation. The VEC being at the centre for strategic planning of activities for convergence shall be responsible for planning, implementation and supervision of the activities.

## 5. MODES OF CONVERGNCE:

**5.1:1 Convergence of MGNREGS with PHE Department:** The PHE Department being the Nodal Department for implementation of NBA has prepared annual targets and convergence plan. Construction of IHHL was taken up for IAY units earlier and under MGNREGA, each unit is taken up at an upper ceiling of Rs. 5400/- as against the total project cost of Rs 10,000/- per unit.

**5.1.2 Convergence of MGNREGS with BRGF:** Meghalaya is undulated with hills and rivers that intersect the landmark at different areas. This brought about difficulty in connecting several villages with the main market areas or the least to the all weather road. Through MGNREGA, rural connectivity is provided only in the form of roads and footpath. There is no provision for construction of footbridges, culverts, etc. BRGF programme aims at bridging the gaps that are not covered by MGNREGA. Resources have been pooled from BRGF for supplementing material component for construction of footbridge, culverts, blacktopping of roads, and construction of community halls, check dams, protection wall for maintaining durability of assets and providing livelihood means to poor people.

**5.1.3 Convergence of MGNREGS with BTRRS:** The Black Topping of Rural Road Scheme (BTRRS) is a Scheme introduced in 2011-12 with an aim of making the roads created under MGNREGA more durable. Since inception, several projects under Rural Connectivity have been taken up as a preferred activity under the NREGS in the state of Meghalaya to improve the rural connectivity. 54% of the total projects are within the category of the Rural Connectivity in Meghalaya. Such roads that are critical for the marketing of agriculture and horticultural produce are prioritized at the district level and blacktopped through this scheme. As PMGSY has its own norms and convergence with MGNREGA is difficult due to technical problems, the present scheme BTRRS being one of the scheme that was solely dedicated for the purpose of rural development focusing on improving road connectivity and quality with the State plan. During the first year i.e 2011-12, under the Scheme, each Block has been assisted with 2 km of road to be black topped at the rate of Rs. 25lakh/ km thus covering 78 kms in all 39 Block areas. During 2012-13, the assistance has been enhanced to 4kms per block. Therefore the State had covered 233 kms during last two years and the Scheme has shown satisfactory outcomes. However in some areas, the allocation of Rs 25/- lakhs per km is not adequate as per standard schedule of rates. Therefore it is also proposed to pool the resources from MGNREGA for labour component during 2014-15. The construction of retaining wall and culvert, providing side drains, etc prior to blacktopping of newly constructed kutcha road ranges from Rs.3.00/- Lakhs to Rs.10.00/- Lakhs, depending on the topography and soil conditions of the area.

**5.1.4: Convergence of MGNREGS and IAY:** For the construction of houses for eligible beneficiaries it is proposed that the work will be taken up under convergence between MGNREGA and IAY. Under this mode of convergence, the beneficiaries involved can work up to a maximum of 95 mandays. The upper ceiling for contribution from MGNREGA is Rs. 14535/- which would be over and above the cost of Rs. 75,000/-

per unit. During the year 20014-15, target is 8433 units and hence the convergence has been proposed covering the target for the state.

**5.1.5 Convergence of MGNREGS with the Catalytic Development Programme of Sericulture Department:** In compliance to the circulars and instructions jointly issued by the Ministry of Rural Development and the Ministry of Textiles (MoT), Meghalaya has taken up a convergence work under the Catalytic Development Plan (CPD) with the Sericulture Department. To promote systematic plantation of Mulberry, Tassar, Muga and Eri silkworm and to provide livelihood through creation of durable assets are some of the main objectives of the convergence programme. The Department of Sericulture, Meghalaya has formulated a three (3) year plan for the establishment of *Mulberry*, *Eri* and *Muga* plantations for rearing of silkworm in potential areas. The area and cost to be covered are included for the first year of plantation and for the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> year only maintenance works is to be undertaken.

**5.1.6 Convergence of MGNREGS with Sericulture Department:** Besides the convergence of MGNREGS with CDP, another convergence programme is initiated with the Sericulture Department for planting and maintenance of host plants in the rearing of silkworm. The Sericulture Department has formulated a three (3) years plan under this convergence mode. The area to be covered and cost reflected is only for the initial year of planting. In the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> year, besides maintenance work, more areas will be taken up hence more household will be covered.

**5.1.7 Convergence of MGNREGS with Social Welfare Department (ICDS):** With the Social Welfare Department, it is proposed that Anganwadi Centres will be taken up on convergence mode under ICDS project. The Social Welfare Department proposes to construct 495 numbers of Anganwadi buildings with an estimated amount of Rs 6.50 lakhs per unit but since Rs 4.50 lakhs only would be borne by the project, the gap would be met from MGNREGA at an amount of Rs. 2 lakh per unit for unskilled labour component.

**5.2.** MGNREGA can extend 100% labour component whereas material component can be funded by the concerned Line Department. Instances are that, the Line Department or implementing agencies can provide the required technical expertise in taking up the work. Therefore, after thorough discussions and on weighing the varied options, the following works are taken up for convergence for the FY 2014-15

**5.2.1 Convergence of MGNREGS with Forest Department and Soil & Water Conservation:** Construction of dug out ponds and minor irrigation are the two categories of work proposed to be taken up in convergence with the Soil & Water conservation and the Forest Department.

**5.2.2. Convergence of MGNREGS with Fisheries Department:** Construction of community fishery projects (creation of new ponds which involves extensive earthwork, digging, earth cutting, laying foundation, etc) is proposed to be taken up with the Fisheries Department in all the Districts. The Department intends to set up 55 units and

communities' contribution in terms of unskilled labour could be met from the MGNREGA and implementation will be as per the Departmental norms.

**5.2.3 Convergence of MGNREGS with Water Resource Department:** The presence of rivers near paddy fields has caused certain damage to the fields as the river constantly erodes the soil thereby damaging the fields and the production. It is therefore proposed that river retaining walls (earthwork, stone pitching, etc.), be taken up with the Water Resource Department to prevent further degradation of the paddy fields.

**5.2.4: Convergence of MGNREGS with PMGSY:** As per the instructions of the Ministry of Rural Development, convergence of MGNREGS with PMGSY can be taken up at different stages of implementation of PMGSY roads. Besides, other activities such as water harvesting structure, farm-net roads and road-side plantations are included in the plan. As an initiation, the State has decided to take up road-side plantation on all PMGSY roads that are completed. The supply of seedlings and technical guidance/supervision will be taken in convergence with Forest Department.

### 5.3: SECTORAL ALLOCATION FOR VARIOUS SCHEMES:

Sl. No.	Implementing Department/ Agency	Sector/ Components/ Name of Project	Projected expenditure (In Lakh)		Total	% allocation of the total outlay (MGNREGA)	Persondays to be generated
			MGNREGA	Line Dept			
1.	Sericulture	Plantation and maintenance of Eri, Muga and Mulberry under CDP*	324.57	23.07	390.39	83.14	2.2381
		Plantation and maintenance of Muga and Eri food plants( <b>Proposed in all districts</b> )**	913.65	182.73	1218.20	75	5.96
		Setting up of an Eri spinning unit at Sawlad (beneficiaries level)- <b>WKH</b>	36.00	24.58	60.58	40.5	0.23529
2.	Social Welfare	ICDS (Anganwadi Centres)***	990	2227.5	3217.5	31	6.47058
3.	Rural Development	NBA (IHHL) (WGH)	912.33	861.45	1773.975	51.43	5.9629
		BTRRS	1014	3900	4914	26	6.62745
		IAY	1225.737	5099.013	6324.75	19.38	8.01135
4.	Fisheries Department	Community Fishery Projects in different locations of 11 districts##	46.455	111.495	185.83	25	0.30363
5.	Water Resource, WKH	River retaining work of Purbah stream along the agricultural land of Mawliehbah F.I.P	20.00	33.27503	53.27503	62.45	0.13072
6.	PMGSY/ Forest	Planting of trees on completed PMGSY Road	22	0	22	100 (80:20)	0.11503

7.	Soil and Water Conservation	Dug Out pond	32	41	73	78	0.20913
8.	Forest Department	Construction of minor irrigation	1.48086	1.25115	2.73201	54	0.0096788
9.	Social Forestry WKH	Raising, planting and fencing	118.356	50.724	169.08	70	0.77357
	<b>Total</b>		<b>5656.579</b>	<b>12556.09</b>	<b>18405.31</b>		<b>37.04743</b>

\*10.95% beneficiaries' contribution

\*\*\* Beneficiaries contribution- Rs. 4100

\*\*10% beneficiaries' contribution

##15% beneficiaries' contribution

## 6. TARGETS:

The targets for achievements in terms of mandays and assets generated through convergence of MGNREGA with other line department for the FY 2014-15 are as follows:

Department	Activities	Types of work	Financial (in lakh)	Physical/ Units	Persondays (in lakh)	Remarks
Sericulture	Plantation and maintenance of Eri, Muga and Mulberry under CDP	Creation/Wage	324.57	420 acres/farmers	2.2381	
	<b>Plantation of food plants (Eri and Muga)</b>	Creation/wage	913.65	2000 nos. Of farmers/acres	5.96	Duration is 3 years & households to be covered are 6669
	Setting up of an Eri spinning unit	Creation/Wage	36.00	1 unit 10 nos. Machines	0.23529	
Social Welfare	ICDS (Anganwadi Centre)	Creation/Wage	990	495 nos.	6.47058	
Rural Development	(NBA IHHL)	Creation/Wage	912.33	16895	5.9629	
	BTRRS	Creation/Wage	1014	156 kms	6.62745	
	IAY	Creation/Wage	1225.737	8433 nos.	8.01135	
Fisheries	Community Fishery projects	Creation/Wage	46.455	55 nos.	0.30363	Total water area 26.5 Hac
Water Resource	River Retaining wall	Creation/Wage	20.00	1 no.	0.13072	
PMGSY	Planting of trees on completed PMGSY roads	Wage/Creation	22	-	.11503	
Soil and Water Conservation	Dug Out pond	Creation/Wage	32	68 nos.	0.20913	
Forest Department	Construction of minor irrigation	Creation/Wage	1.48086	1 no.	0.0096788	
Social Forestry	Raising, Planting and fencing	Creation/Wage	118.356	522 Hac/ 5 Km	0.77357	

7. **PROCESS:** The implementation process of MGNREGA works is a bottom up approach wherein the identification of required works is taken up by the VEC. Based on this, the Shelf of Projects (SoP) is prepared by the VEC upon approval of the Gram Sabha/ meeting of the VEC. From the proposed convergence works, some have been taken up on allocation of the concerned Line Department on being agreed upon by the Department of Rural Development and some works are identified by the VEC and approved by the District.
8. **COSTING:** Estimates will be prepared in consultation between the DPC and the Line department abiding by the National and State level norms and taking into account the approved wage rate under MGNREGA.
9. **PROJECT LOCATION:** The location of the village/ clusters of village shall be jointly identified by the concerned District level officials and the Line Department in consultation with the Village Employment Council (VEC).
10. **IDENTIFICATION OF BENEFICIARIES:** Beneficiaries shall be identified by the VEC during Labour Budget planning at the village level.

#### **11. OPERATIONALISING:**

**11.1 PLANNING:** Effective planning is critical to ensure successful implementation of convergence projects. A Village Employment Council (VEC) or cluster of VECs will be a unit for planning. The Programme Officer will then consolidate these plans and the same will be forwarded to the District after obtaining approval of the BLCC. The project location at the village level (VEC) shall be identified jointly by the concerned District level officials of the MGNREGA and the Line Departments. The joint estimates shall be used for estimating the project costs.

**11.2 SANCTION:** Under MGNREGA, all Convergence Schemes are required to obtain the Technical and Administrative Sanctions well in advance and the same shall be accorded by the District Programme Coordinator (DPC) at the District level.

**11.3 IMPLEMENTATION:** The work Commencement Order shall be signed and issued by the Programme Officer after obtaining approval from the DPC. The VEC and the Line Department shall jointly implement the work. Care should be taken to ensure that the provisions under the Act are not violated.

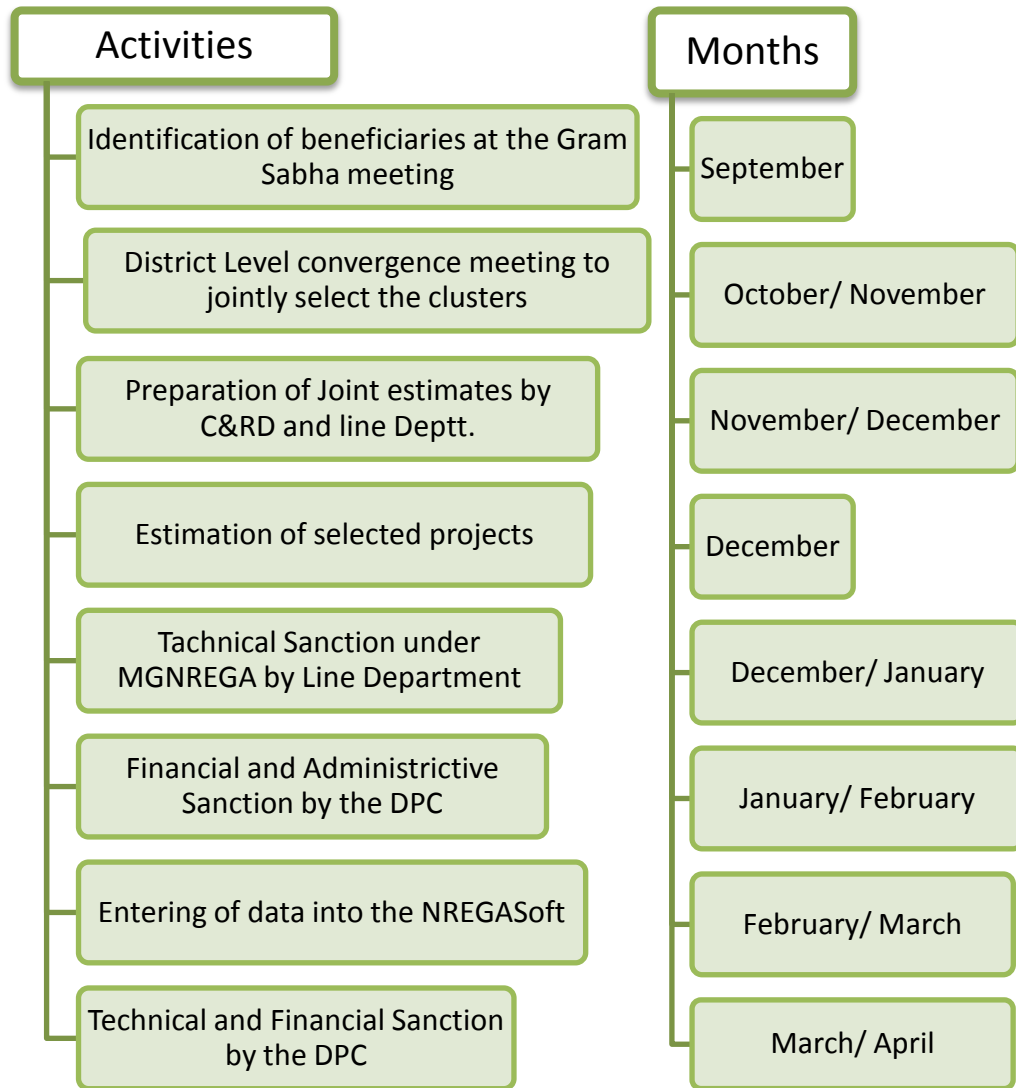
**11.4 MEETINGS:** Coordination meetings shall be held regularly at the District level between officials of MGNREGA and the line department to discuss various issues and resolve problems that arise through convergence.

#### **12 CONVERGENCE ROADMAP:**

Most of the works taken up with Forest Department and Soil & Water Conservation Department are seasonal activities. Hence, it is to be ensured that the activities to be



undertaken by both the Departments involved should be done scrupulously. The activities scheduled for implementation shall be provided for in the joint estimates which are specific for the type of work to be undertaken. Hence, the calendar below reflects only the planning methodology employed:



### 13 MONITORING AND EVALUATION

**13.1** Joint monitoring and supervision of activities should be planned on a set of indicators agreed upon by the concerned departments and quantification of the benefits accrued should also be taken up.

**13.2** The DLCC/BLCC/VEC will monitor all the works at their own respective levels. The State Government shall monitor the performance of all districts on the quality and pace of implementation as laid down by the nodal department.

**14 SOCIAL AUDIT:**

Biannual Social Audit shall be conducted for all convergence activities taken up. The Social Audit process shall be essentially taken up for all convergence activities with MGNREGA as per the MGNREGA specified norms.

**15 OTHER ISSUES:**

The Community and Rural Development and all concerned Line Department shall strictly adhere to the instructions issued by the Ministry of Rural development from time to time.



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and other Line Departments for  
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Meghalaya

